

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

MAY 14 2007

Serial No. 10/043,744  
Page 2 of 13

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A first communications device ~~connected to a network for use in a communications system with a client communications device~~ second communications device ~~that is an original destination of a client communications device, and a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of~~ communications data transmitted from the client communications device ~~to an address of another communications device, and the first communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, the first communications device comprising:~~

a receiving unit receiving communications data with ~~a~~ the destination address modified by the destination address modification device;

an acquisition unit obtaining an original destination address of the communications data from the destination address modification device;

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of response data in response to the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, to ~~an address of a communication device that is an original destination~~ the original destination address obtained by the acquisition unit; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the response data, with the source address modified by the source address modification unit ~~to the address of the communication device that is the original destination~~, directly to the client communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

2. (canceled)

84212268\_1

Serial No. 10/043,744  
Page 3 of 13

3. (withdrawn from consideration) The communications device according to claim 1

wherein:

the communication device comprises a request unit requesting the destination address modification device to transmit destination address modification information of the communications data; and wherein

the source address modification unit modifies the source address of the response data to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, based on the destination address modification information transmitted from the destination address modification device.

4. (currently amended) The first communications device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of communications processing units; and

a sorting unit assigning a process to the relevant communications processing unit of the plurality of communications processing units based on identification information added to the communications data.

5. (currently amended) The first communications device according to claim 4, wherein said sorting unit assigns a process to the relevant communications processing unit of the plurality of communications processing units based on information designated by a communications port included in the communications data.

6. (currently amended) An A destination address modification device connected to a network with a communications device, for use in a communications system with a first

84212268\_1

Serial No. 10/043,744  
Page 4 of 13

communications device that is an original destination of a client communications device, the destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, the destination address modification device comprising:

a receiving unit receiving communications data with a destination address;

a destination address modification unit modifying the destination address of the communications data transmitted from the communications device addressed to the first communications device to an address of another the second communications device;

a modification unit modifying a source address of response data in response to the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification unit, to an address of a communication device that is an original destination and transmitting address modification information to a communications device with a modified address a modification information generation unit transmitting an address of the first communications device that is an original address of the communications data to the second communications device, wherein

the communications device with the modified address transmits the source address of response data, with the source address in response to the communications data is modified by the source address modification unit to the address of the first communications device that is the original destination, and the response data is transmitted directly to a the client communications device from the second communications device without passing the response data through the address modification device.

84212268\_1

Serial No. 10/043,744  
Page 5 of 13

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The destination address modification device according to claim 6, wherein

said modification unit transmits information indicating the destination address before modification as modification information.

9. (currently amended) The destination address modification device according to claim 6, wherein

said modification unit adds information indicating the destination address before modification to a data section of the communications data and transmits the data.

10. (currently amended) A communications method in a network comprised of a destination address-modification device and a plurality of communications devicescommunications system with a first communications device that is an original destination of a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the second communications device, communications data with a the destination address modified by the destination address modification device;

obtaining, from the destination address modification device, an address of the first communications device that is an original destination of the communications data;

84212268\_1

Serial No. 10/043,744  
Page 6 of 13

modifying a source address of response data in response to the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, to an the address of a the first communications device that is an-the original destination; and transmitting the response data, with the source address modified in the source address modifying step to the address of the first communication device that is the original destination, directly to a the client communications device from the second communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of requesting the destination address modification device to transmit address modification information; and

receiving the destination address modification information from the destination address modification device and modifying a source address of data in response to communications data with an address modified by the destination address modification device base on the address modification information.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A computer-readable communications control program performing control of communications in a network comprised of a destination address modification device and a plurality of communications devicescommunications system with a first communications device that is an original destination of a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data

8421226K\_1

Serial No. 10/043,744  
Page 7 of 13

transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device to enable a computer to implement functions, the functions comprising:

receiving, by the second communications device, communications data with a-the destination address modified by the destination address modification device;

obtaining, by the second communications device from the destination address modification device, an address of the first communications device that is an original destination of the communications data;

modifying a source address of response data to the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device to an-the obtained address of a-the first communications device that is an-the original destination; and

transmitting the response data, with the source address modified in the source address modifying step to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, directly to a-the client communications device from the second communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

14. (withdrawn from consideration) The computer-readable communications control program of claim 13 further comprising the functions of:

requesting the destination address modification device to transmit address modification information; and

84212368\_1

Serial No. 10/043,744  
Page 8 of 13

modifying a source address of response to the source of the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination modification device based on modification information.

15. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a communications control program performing control of communications used in a communications system with a first communications device that is an original destination of a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device for enabling a computer to implement functions, the functions comprising:

receiving communications data with a destination address modified by a destination address modification device;

obtaining, by the second communications device from the destination address modification device, an address of the first communications device that is an original destination of the communications data;

modifying a source address of response data to the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device to an obtained address of a-the first communications device that is an-the original destination; and

transmitting the response data, with the source address modified by the source address modification unit to the address of the communication device that is the original destination,

84212268\_1

Serial No. 10/043,744  
Page 9 of 13

directly to athe client communications device from the second communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A communications system in which an address modification device for modifying an address of communications data received from another communications device and a plurality of communications devices for transmitting and receiving data in response to the communications data with a modified address are connected through a network with a first communications device that is an original destination of a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, comprising:

anthe destination address modification device, comprising:

a receiving unit receiving communications data with a destination address;

a destination address modification unit modifying athe destination address of the communications data transmitted from the communications device addressed to the first communications device to an address of anotherthe second communications device; and

amodificationunitmodifyingasourceaddressofresponsedatainresponseto  
thecommunicationsdatawiththedestinationaddressmodifiedbythedestinationaddress  
modificationunittoanaddressofacommunicationdevicethatisanoriginaldestination

84212268\_1

Serial No. 10/043,744  
Page 10 of 13

and transmitting address modification information to a communications device with a modified address, and

a modification information generation unit transmitting an address of the first communications device that is an original address of the communications data to the second communications device;

each of a plurality of the second communications devices device, comprising:

an acquisition unit obtaining destination address modification information transmitted an address of the first communications device that is an original destination of the communications data from the destination address modification device;

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of the response data in response to the communications data to the address of the first communication device that is the original destination, based on the destination address modification information obtained by the acquisition unit; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the response data with the source address modified by the source address modification unit to the address of the first communication device that is the original destination, directly to the client communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

84212268\_1